

REMARKS

The claims are claims 1 to 27 and 29 to 44.

Claims 14 and 26 are amended to present a slight change in language to respond to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112.

Claims 1 to 24, 30, 32, 34, 36 to 39, 42 and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. The OFFICE ACTION points out the phrases "input/output," "external base unit" and "may" as indefinite.

Claims 1, 2, 13, 14, 29, 30, 36, 37, 38, 39 and 42 have been amended to change the term "input/output." These instances of "input/output" are amended either to separate recitation of an input device and an output device or recitation of only the input device as appropriate. The Applicants respectfully submit that these changes cure this rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112.

Claims 1 to 4, 13, 15, 16, 36 to 38, 42 and 43 have been amended to change references to "external." These instances of references to "external" structure are amended to either delete the reference, change the reference to the structure of the portable unit or change the reference to the structure of the base unit as appropriate. The Applicants respectfully submit that these changes cure this rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112.

Claims 1, 2, 13, 14, 36 to 39, 42 and 43 have been amended to change the phrase "whereby a user may" to "enabling a user to." The Applicants respectfully submit that these changes cure this rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112.

Claims 1 to 25, 27, 29 to 31, 36 to 39, 42 and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Min-Jae U.S. Patent No. 6,222,807.

Claims 1, 13 and 25 recite subject matter not anticipated by Min-Jae. Claims 1 and 13 recite "an analog input connection

connected to said audio coder-decoder for receiving an analog input." Claim 13 recites "a base unit analog output connection for connection to said analog input connection of said first base connector." Claim 25 recites "a base unit analog output connection connected to said tuner to output demodulated analog audio signals." The OFFICE ACTION states at page 5, lines 1 to 5 that Min-Jae discloses:

"An analog output connection connected to said audio coder-decoder for supplying analog music to an external base unit for amplification and reproduction via speakers (Fig.3, D/A converter 33, amplifier 34 and Speaker 35)"

This statement is incorrect. The D/A converter 33, amplifier 34 and speaker 35 illustrated in Figure 3 of Min-Jae are part of recording/playback apparatus 10 and not part of portable apparatus 50. The portions of Min-Jae cited in the OFFICE ACTION regarding other elements of claim (rechargeable battery pack; input/output device; memory; data processor; audio coder-decoder; headset connector; base connector including a power connection) all refer to portable apparatus 50 illustrated in Figure 4. The analog output of recording/playback apparatus 10 does not anticipate the analog output of the self-contained, portable music player recited in claims 1, 13 and 35.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the only connection between recording/playback apparatus 10 and portable apparatus 50 of Min-Jae is a digital connection and not the analog connection recited in claims 1, 13 and 15. Figure 3 of Min-Jae illustrates base unit 10 including connector 27 and interface driver 26. Figure 4 of Min-Jae illustrates portable apparatus 50 including connector 60 selectively connectable to connector 27 and interface driver 59. Min-Jae states at column 14, lines 5 to 12:

"As shown in FIG. 2, the recording/playback apparatus 10 also has a connector 27 for connecting the portable apparatus 50 thereto. With the connector 27 put in a state of being engaged with a connector 60 of the portable apparatus 50, the CPU 11 is capable of communicating various kinds of data with the portable apparatus 50 by way of an interface driver 26. For example, an audio file stored in the HDD 15 can be transferred to the portable apparatus 50."

This clearly states that data from HDD 15 can be transmitted from base unit 10 to portable apparatus 50 via connector 27 and connector 27. This data path presumably also includes connector 60 and interface driver 59. Min-Jae states at column 11, lines 50 and 51 that "HDD" means "hard disk drive." Such a hard disk drive is known to store digital data and not analog data. Min-Jae states at column 18, lines 45 to 48:

"To put it in detail, the audio file is transferred from the HDD 15 to the HDD 54 by way of the interface drivers 26 and 59 to be recorded into the HDD 54."

Since both HDD 15 and HDD 54 are disclosed as a type of apparatus that stores digital data, the interface drivers 26 and 59 handle digital data and thus interface driver 26 and interface driver 60 also handle digital data. One skilled in the art would understand this connection between connectors 27 and 60 is digital data and not the analog data claimed. The OFFICE ACTION does not point out any portion of Min-Jae disclosing an analog connection as recited in claims 1, 13 and 25. The Applicant submits that Min-Jae teaches no such analog connection. Paragraph 11 of the ADVISORY ACTION of October 12, 2005 states:

"The connector 27 is connected between two audio device (see figure 2, devices 50 and 10) which they both can communicated with each other and sharing audio data, this connecting is not necessary 'digital input' as applicant argued."

The Applicants respectfully submit this connecting in Min-Jae is limited to digital signals. Min-Jae includes general descriptions of connectors 27 and 60 at column 10, lines 18 to 27 and column 14, lines 40 to 46. These general descriptions fail to specify whether connectors 27 and 60 communicate digital signals or analog signals. As shown above, all the detailed descriptions of the signals these connectors 27 and 60 communicate are limited to digital signals. One skilled in the art reading this description as a whole would believe that the teachings of Min-Jae are limited to the detailed digital signals and not the claimed analog signals. Min-Jae discloses the connection operates with devices known to handle digital data and does not explicitly disclose the recited analog connection. Accordingly, Min-Jae fails to anticipate the analog connection recited in claims 1, 13 and 25. Thus claims 1, 13 and 25 are allowable over Min-Jae.

Claims 2, 14, 36, 38 and 40 recite subject matter not anticipated by Min-Jae. Claims 2 and 36 recite "said data processor is further programmed in cooperation with input device enabling a user to enter volume control data via said keypad" and "a volume data connection for transmission of volume control data from the self-contained, portable music player." Claims 14 and 38 recite "said data processor is further programmed in cooperation with input device enabling a user to enter volume control data via said keypad," the first base connector includes "a volume data output connection for transmission of volume control data from the self-contained, portable music player," the second base connector includes "a volume data input connection for connection to said volume data output connection" and the pre-amplifier is "further connected to said volume data input connection and producing an amount of amplification corresponding to the volume control data." Claim 40 recites the base connector includes a "volume data input connection for receiving of volume control data" and the pre-

amplifier is connected to "said volume data input connection and producing an amount of amplification corresponding to the volume control data." These claims require that a volume control input made at the self-contained, portable music player be converted to volume control data, that volume control data be transmitted to the base unit which controls the "amount of amplification" at the base unit. The OFFICE ACTION incorporates the previous rejections regarding these claims. The FINAL REJECTION of August 12, 2005 states at page 5, lines 4 to 7:

"As to claims 2, 14 and 26, MIN-JAE shows the volume can be control from portable player or base unit (Fig.2, volume control on panel operation unit 20 and in portable player 50, figure 4, via connector 27 and USB bus B1, B2)."

The Applicants submit that this is incorrect. Min-Jae fails to teach that any input operation made at portable apparatus 50 controls operation at base recording/playback apparatus 10. Min-Jae states at column 14, lines 50 to 56:

"When any of the operators Kb which serve as the panel operation unit 56 is operated, an operation signal requesting an operation to be carried out by the portable apparatus 50 is output by the panel operation unit 56 to a control bus B2. The portable apparatus 50 then carries out the operation requested by the operation signal."

This states that inputs at panel operation unit 56 controls operation at the portable apparatus 50. This does not anticipate that input a panel operation unit 56 supplies signals to base unit recording/playback apparatus 10 to control its operation as required by the above quoted language of claims 2, 14, 36, 38 and 40. The above quoted paragraph of the FINAL REJECTION denotes a pathway disclosed in Min-Jae where it is feasible to transmit the recited volume control data. However, Min-Jae fails to provide any

indication that this path is used in this way. The Applicant submits that one skilled in the art would believe that panel operation unit 20 is used to control recording/playback unit 10 and panel operation unit 56 is used to control portable apparatus 50. In the absence of any indication within Min-Jae that transmission of volume control data between portable apparatus 50 and recording/playback unit 10 is feasible or desirable, Min-Jae fails to anticipate this recited subject matter. Accordingly, claims 2, 14, 36, 38 and 40 are allowable over Min-Jae et al.

Claims 13 and 25 recite subject matter not anticipated by Min-Jae. Claims 13 and 25 recite "a tuner for receiving and demodulating analog audio signals." Claim 13 further recites "said tuner supplying said analog audio signals to said base unit analog output connection" and claim 25 further recites "a base unit analog output connection connected to said tuner to output demodulated analog audio signals." The OFFICE ACTION of November 11, 2005 incorporates the previous rejections regarding these claims. The FINAL REJECTION of August 12, 2005 at page 6, lines 13 to 16 cites Min-Jae at column 8, lines 58 to 63 as anticipating this subject matter. Min-Jae states at column 8, lines 58 to 63:

"As shown in FIG. 2, the recording/playback apparatus 10 is designed as equipment having a type of the so-called cassette tape recorder/player having a radio so that it is suitable for use by the user typically at home. It is needless to say that the recording/playback apparatus 10 can also be designed as component-type equipment."

This portion of Min-Jae teaches a radio as part of the recording/playback apparatus 10. However, Min-Jae includes no teaching that recording/playback apparatus 10 transmits an analog signal to portable apparatus 50 as required by the above quoted portions of claims 13 and 25. Accordingly, claims 13 and 25 are allowable over Min-Jae.

Claims 29 to 31 recite subject matter not anticipated by Min-Jae. Claims 29 and 31 recite the base connector of the player includes "a digital data bus connection for bidirectional data exchange." Claims 29 and 31 further recite the data processor of the player is further connected to the digital data bus connection "for communicating station selection data corresponding to inputs received from said input/output device" via the digital data bus connection to the base unit. Claims 30 and 31 recite a base connector including a "digital data bus connection." Claim 30 recites this digital data bus connection is "for connection to said first digital data bus connection." Claim 31 recites this digital data bus connection is "for receiving digital data including station selection data." Lastly, claims 30 and 31 recites that the tuner is connected to this digital data bus connection and selects "a station corresponding to said station selection data." These recitations provide the tuner in the base unit with station selection made by the input/output device of the portable unit with station selection data transferred by a digital data bus. This subject matter is not anticipated by Min-Jae. Min-Jae teaches that recording/playback unit 10 includes a radio but fails to teach the transmission of station selection data via a digital data bus. The OFFICE ACTION of November 15, 2005 incorporates the previous rejections regarding these claims. The FINAL REJECTION of August 12, 2005 denotes a pathway disclosed in Min-Jae where it is feasible to transmit the recited station selection data. However, Min-Jae fails to provide any indication that this path is used in this way. The Applicant submits that one skilled in the art would believe that panel operation unit 20 is used to control recording/playback unit 10 to make any station selection. In the absence of any indication within Min-Jae that transmission of station selection data between portable apparatus 50 and recording/playback unit 10 is feasible or desirable, Min-Jae fails

to anticipate this recited subject matter. Accordingly, claims 29 to 31 are not anticipated by Min-Jae.

Claims 37, 39, 42 and 43 recite subject matter not anticipated by Min-Jae. Claims 37, 39, 42 and 43 recite the said data processor being "programmed in cooperation with said input device enabling a user to enter station selection data via said keypad." Claims 37 and 42 further recite "communicating station selection data corresponding to inputs received from said input device via said station selection output connection." Claims 39, 41, 43 and 44 recite "selecting a station corresponding to said station selection data." Regarding claims 37, 42 and 43, the OFFICE ACTION states at page 6, lines 11 and 14 that these claims are rejected for the same reasons as claims 1 and 2. However, claims 37, 42 and 43 recite an additional limitation not recited in claims 1 and 2 of entry and/or communication of station selection data. The OFFICE ACTION fails to point out how Min-Jae anticipates this subject matter. Min-Jae fails to teach the provision of receipt of station selection data at the portable music player that is implemented on a tuner in the base unit. Regarding claim 39, the OFFICE ACTION fails to cite any portion of Min-Jae as anticipating this claim. Accordingly, claims 39, 41, 43 and 44 are allowable over Min-Jae.

Claim 38 recites subject matter not anticipated by Min-Jae. Claim 38 recites "said base unit having no input for volume control." This limitation is in accordance with the system illustrated in Figure 1 where there is no illustration of a volume control in the base unit. The OFFICE ACTION states at page 6, lines 11 and 12 that claim 38 is rejected for the same reasons as claims 1 and 2. However, claim 38 recites an additional limitation not recited in claims 1 and 2 of no volume control input on the base unit. The OFFICE ACTION fails to point out how Min-Jae anticipates this subject matter. Thus claim 38 is allowable over Min-Jae.

Claims 42 and 43 recite further subject matter not anticipated by Min-Jae. Claims 42 and 43 similarly recite "said base unit having no input for station selection." This limitation is in accordance with the system illustrated in Figure 1 where there is no illustration of a station selection in the base unit. The OFFICE ACTION states at page 6, lines 13 and 14 that claims 42 and 43 are rejected for the same reasons as claims 1 and 2. However, claims 42 and 43 recite an additional limitation not recited in claims 1 and 2 of no station selection input on the base unit. The OFFICE ACTION fails to point out how Min-Jae anticipates this subject matter. Thus claims 42 and 43 are allowable over Min-Jae.

Claims 26, 32 to 35 and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as made obvious by Min-Jae U.S. Patent No. 6,222,807.

Claim 26 recites subject matter not made obvious by Min-Jae. Claim 26 recites the base connector includes a "volume data input connection for receiving of volume control data" and the pre-amplifier is connected to "said volume data input connection and producing an amount of amplification corresponding to the volume control data." This claim requires that volume control data received at an input control the "amount of amplification" at the base unit. The OFFICE ACTION states at page 7, lines 1 to 15:

"MIN-JAE discloses all the subject matter as claimed in claims 26, 40 and 41, except to specifically shows that the base unit receives the volume control from the portable player. It would have been obvious to someone within the level of skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the audio player system of MIN-JAE by locating a volume control in portable player. The rationale is as follows: The volume controller is old and widely used in the recording art for controlling the volume of the audio signal (See MIN-JAE's figure 2, control button Ka, portable player 50 with various control buttons), the volume controller can be placed at any suitable locations on any audio players. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made

would have been motivated to arrange a volume control on portable player 50 of MIN-JAE's audio player system for controlling the volume of the base unit 10 as claimed."

This is an argument why Min-Jae makes obvious the recitation of the portable unit supplying volume control data to the base unit. However, this points out no evidence that one skilled in the art would modify Min-Jae as suggested. Firstly, Min-Jae discloses separate user controls for recording/playback apparatus 10 and portable apparatus 50. Min-Jae states at column 10, lines 49 to 53:

"When the panel operation unit 20 is operated, one of a plurality of operation signals for carrying out a variety of operations of the recording/playback apparatus 10 is generated. The recording/playback apparatus 10 then operates in accordance with the generated operation signal."

Min-Jae also states at column 15, lines 47 to 56:

"The portable apparatus 50 has operators such as push-type and rotary-type keys serving as a panel operation unit 56. That is to say, a variety of operators Kb shown in FIG. 2 correspond to the panel operation unit 56. When any of the operators Kb which serve as the panel operation unit 56 is operated, an operation signal requesting an operation to be carried out by the portable apparatus 50 is output by the panel operation unit 56 to a control bus B2. The portable apparatus 50 then carries out the operation requested by the operation signal."

The Applicants respectfully submit that one skilled in the art viewing these disclosures would understand that operation of recording/playback apparatus 10 is controlled by panel operation unit 20 and operation of portable apparatus 50 is controlled by panel operation unit 56. Secondly, the OFFICE ACTION fails to point out any disclosure of Min-Jae of one apparatus 10 or 50 sending control signals to control operations at the other

apparatus. The Applicants believe there is no such disclosure. Thus Min-Jae provides no evidence to support the Examiner's argument that the particular combination of claim 26 is obvious. In the absence of any indication within Min-Jae that transmission of volume control data between portable apparatus 50 and recording/playback unit 10 is feasible or desirable, Min-Jae fails to make obvious this recited subject matter. Accordingly, claim 26 is allowable over Min-Jae et al.

Claims 32 and 33 recite subject matter not made obvious by Min-Jae. Claims 32 and 33 recite the base unit "includes no volume control input." This limitation is in accordance with the system illustrated in Figure 1 where there is no illustration of a volume control in the base unit. Figure 2 of Min-Jae clearly illustrates controls on both recording/playback apparatus 10 and portable apparatus 50. The OFFICE ACTION states at page 7, lines 16 to 18:

"As to claims 32-35 and 44, to locate the volume control and selection input in any suitable locations of the audio player system is found to be within the level of skill in the art."

While this is an argument that this subject matter is obvious, this is not evidence of obviousness. Min-Jae discloses separate user controls for recording/playback apparatus 10 and portable apparatus 50 at column 10, lines 49 to 53 and at column 15, lines 47 to 56. The Applicants respectfully submit that one skilled in the art viewing these disclosures would understand that operation of recording/playback apparatus 10 is controlled by panel operation unit 20 and operation of portable apparatus 50 is controlled by panel operation unit 56. The OFFICE ACTION fails to point out any disclosure of Min-Jae of omission of a volume control at recording/playback apparatus 10. The Applicants believe there is no such disclosure. Thus Min-Jae provides no evidence to support

the Examiner's argument that the particular combination of claims 32 and 33 is obvious. In the absence of any indication within Min-Jae that transmission of volume control data between portable apparatus 50 and recording/playback unit 10 is feasible or desirable, Min-Jae fails to make obvious this recited subject matter. Accordingly, claims 32 and 33 are allowable over Min-Jae et al.

Claims 34, 35 and 44 recite subject matter not anticipated by Min-Jae. Claims 34 and 35 recite "said base unit includes no station selection input." Claim 44 similarly recites "said base unit having no input for station selection." This limitation is in accordance with the system illustrated in Figure 1 where there is no illustration of a station selection in the base unit. Figure 2 of Min-Jae clearly illustrates controls on both recording/playback apparatus 10 and portable apparatus 50. The OFFICE ACTION states at page 7, lines 16 to 18:

"As to claims 32-35 and 44, to locate the volume control and selection input in any suitable locations of the audio player system is found to be within the level of skill in the art."

While this is an argument that this subject matter is obvious, this is not evidence of obviousness. Min-Jae discloses separate user controls for recording/playback apparatus 10 and portable apparatus 50 at column 10, lines 49 to 53 and at column 15, lines 47 to 56. The Applicants respectfully submit that one skilled in the art viewing these disclosures would understand that operation of recording/playback apparatus 10 is controlled by panel operation unit 20 and operation of portable apparatus 50 is controlled by panel operation unit 56. The OFFICE ACTION fails to point out any disclosure of Min-Jae of omission of a station selection input at recording/playback apparatus 10. The Applicants believe there is

no such disclosure. Thus Min-Jae provides no evidence to support the Examiner's argument that the particular combination of claims 34, 35 and 44 is obvious. In the absence of any indication within Min-Jae that transmission of volume control data between portable apparatus 50 and recording/playback unit 10 is feasible or desirable, Min-Jae fails to make obvious this recited subject matter. Thus claims 34, 35 and 44 are allowable over Min-Jae.

Section 9 at pages 7 to 8 of the OFFICE ACTION provides five responses to Applicant's arguments in the amendment filed with the Request for Continuing Examination in this application.

First, the analog inputs ta2 and ta3 illustrated in Figure 3 of Min-Jae do not anticipate or make obvious recitations of claims 1, 13 and 25. Claims 1 and 13 recite an analog input to the self-contained, portable music player. Claims 13 and 25 recite an analog output of the base unit. The analog inputs of Figure 3 of Min-Jae are to the recording/playback apparatus 10. This is the opposite direction of signal flow than recited in claims 1, 13 and 25.

Second, the previous recitations of "may" have been changed to recite functions of the recited apparatus.

Third, the amendment filed with the Request for Continuing Examination did not argue "the portable player having a tuner and applying analog audio signal to base unit." This amendment stated at page 27, lines 15 to 20:

"Claims 13 and 25 recite 'a tuner for receiving and demodulating analog audio signals.' Claim 13 further recites 'said tuner supplying said analog audio signals to said base unit analog output connection' and claim 25 further recites 'a base unit analog output connection connected to said tuner to output demodulated analog audio signals.'"

This amendment further states at page 27, line 30 to page 28, line 1:

"However, Min-Jae includes no teaching that recording/playback apparatus 10 transmits an analog signal to portable apparatus 50 as required by the above quoted portions of claims 13 and 25."

These quotes from the prior amendment make clear that the Applicants argument was the opposite that noted in this paragraph of the OFFICE ACTION. Claims 13 and 25 recite the tuner is in the base unit and that analog signals are sent to the portable unit. Thus this response to Applicant's arguments is based upon a false understanding of the arguments.

Fourth, the Applicant acknowledged the digital data bus of Min-Jae. The Applicant disputes that the existence of this digital data bus anticipates or makes obvious the communication of the particular signals recited in the claims.


Fifth, the Applicant disputes that Min-Jae makes obvious the particular combinations where the portable unit controls the base unit. The Applicant submits that the prior art teaches systems where: each unit controls its own functions; and a control unit without other functions controls the base unit. The Applicants submit that the Min-Jae does not anticipate or make obvious a system where the portable unit is both capable of substantial stand alone use and also controls functions of the base unit.

The Applicant respectfully submits that all the present claims are allowable for the reasons set forth above. Therefore early entry of this amendment, reconsideration and advance to issue are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions or other correspondence regarding this application, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's attorney at the below listed telephone number and address to facilitate prosecution.

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